

Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees

The Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee and the Court Executives Advisory Committee were created by the Judicial Council to provide advice, options, and recommendations on topics affecting the administration of justice. By monitoring areas of continuing significance to the justice system and recommending appropriate solutions and responses, these two committees play a crucial role in improving judges' and court executives' access to and participation in the Judicial Council decision-making process.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee is composed of 20 voting members. Members are appointed for one-year terms. The Court Executives Advisory Committee consists of up to 22 court administrators or executive officers and one appellate court clerk or administrator. Members are appointed to three-year staggered terms.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

These two advisory committees conduct joint meetings in person and by teleconference. They fulfill their duties and responsibilities by doing the following:

- Identifying issues of concern to the courts, including legislative issues that might be considered by the council;

- Increasing communication between the council and the trial courts.
- Reviewing rules, forms, and standards;
- Reviewing recommendations related to court administration;
- Making recommendations concerning judicial and court support staff training programs; and
- Reviewing and making proposals concerning the Judicial Branch Statistical Information System or other large-scope data collection efforts.

COMMITTEE GOALS:

- To provide a voice for the trial courts
- To provide a channel of communication between the Judicial Council and the judges and administrators of the trial courts
- To provide a forum so that concerned parties are intimately involved in decision making on policy related to and affecting the trial courts.

CONFERENCES

The advisory committees may ask the Trial Court Presiding Judges or the Court Executives Advisory Committee for advice or assistance in formulating proposals and recommendations to the council. These conferences include, respectively, the

presiding judge and assistant presiding judge or the court executive and assistant court executive of each court. The conferences serve to:

- Increase the opportunities for presiding judges and court executive officers to participate in the Judicial Council decision-making process; and
- Provide an educational forum.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Standing and ad hoc subcommittees are utilized to assist the Trial Court Presiding Judges and Court Executives Advisory Committees in carrying out their duties. Standing subcommittees have been established in the areas of legislation, rules, and small counties.

The 27-member Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest and busiest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts serves as the staff agency to the council.